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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

12th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee
Athens, Greece, 19 and 20 June 2008

DECISIONS OF THE 15TH MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Decision IG 17/16: Recommendations of the 12th Meeting of the MCSD

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The 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Reaffirming the importance of the MCSD as an advisory body for the Contracting Parties, its place in the MAP governance system and its role in the implementation of the MSSD,

Acknowledging the MCSD function to provide appropriate recommendations to the meetings of the Contracting Parties, through the MAP Secretariat, on the basis of comprehensive analysis,

Recalling the relevant Recommendations of the Action Plan adopted at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development as well as the objectives and priority fields of action of the MSSD,

Considering that water demand management is an integral part of integrated water resources management,

Considering also that energy development in the Mediterranean must contribute to the region's sustainable development especially by reinforcing security of supply, controlling emissions of greenhouse gases, reducing pollution connected with it at local and regional level, promoting access to energy and energy services and improving energy efficiency,

Estimating that these challenges are closely linked with the socio-economic and environmental challenges, particularly climate change, which the Mediterranean countries are also facing;

Decides to approve the Recommendations made by the MCSD during the 12th Meeting (Istanbul, Turkey, 30-31 May 2007), on (i) Water Demand Management, (ii) Energy and Climate Change and (iii) Energy and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean, attached respectively as Annex I, Annex II and Annex III to this document.

ANNEX I

Recommendations on Water Demand Management

The 12th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Istanbul, Turkey, 30-31 May 2007) improved and endorsed the following Recommendations that emerged from the Working Group on Water Demand Management, held in Zaragoza, Spain, March 2007.

1. MCSD recommends that the national political authorities of the Mediterranean countries:
 - i. Include, in accordance with the MSSD orientations, Water Demand Management, in the national priority strategies, to promote its implementation, on the one hand by setting annually on the basis of regional objectives, national objectives of efficiency and on the other — in order to achieve them — by mobilizing, with a concern for social equity, the various technical instruments and tools, but also those regulatory, normative, tariff, fiscal, contractual or market tools and instruments available to them; further, to coordinate its implementation, follow-up and evaluation in the various sectoral policies, especially in the fields of agriculture, energy, tourism, environment and land development,
 - ii. See to it that the problems connected with Water Demand Management are properly integrated within the global environmental problems, such as climate change, and biodiversity and ecosystem conservation,
 - iii. Promote mobilization and responsabilization, at the various relevant territorial scales, connected with either the rural or the urban environment, of the various stakeholders concerned with Water Demand Management, public, academic, private or association-related by taking into consideration the particular role of women in this field; further to invite the partners, public — especially donors — and private to contribute to the resulting activities, operations and investments,
 - iv. Take all necessary measures to raise the awareness of the public in terms of Water Demand Management — especially through environmental education activities, mainly by informing the public on the challenges involved and by identifying, implementing and making use of the relevant good practices, especially concerning the maintenance of water distribution systems, individual consumption of drinking water, rational use in agriculture as a function of the geographical context, and the protection of ecosystems,
 - v. Assess, every two years, progress accomplished in Water Demand Management and therefore reinforce the inclusion of Water Demand Management in the national information systems on water; further to document the various relevant indicators, mainly those adopted by the MSSD, reinforce the regional scientific and institutional cooperation to promote Water Demand Management.

2. Moreover, MCSD expects the Blue Plan, in collaboration with its partners to:
 - i. Make a report, every two years, on progress accomplished in the Mediterranean in the field of Water Demand Management
 - ii. Contribute to establishing a compendium of good practices in the field of Water Demand Management
 - iii. Organize in 2012 the fourth regional workshop in Water Demand Management.
3. The MCSD also underlines the need for the development of synergies with existing initiatives such as the EU Water Initiative – MED component, the GWP-Med, EMWIS etc.

ANNEX II

Recommendations on Energy and Climate Change

During the 12th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Istanbul, Turkey, 30-31 May 2007) the break out session on Energy and Climate Change concluded that:

1. It is recommended that Chapter 2.2 of the MSSD on Energy and Climate Change should be implemented without further delay. In this context, national strategies for sustainable development (NSSDs) should include mainstreaming renewable energies (RE), energy efficiency and climate change concerns, including adaptation. According to the latest findings of the IPCC, the threat posed by climate change has significantly increased since the preparation of the MSSD.
2. There is a need to assess the socio-economic impacts of climate change in the Mediterranean, particularly for the most vulnerable groups. This should be complemented by a country-specific needs and vulnerability assessment.
3. A two-pronged approach to energy policy is required. A focus on the supply side, i.e. on the availability of clean and affordable energy systems, is constrained by the need for clean but affordable technology. It is therefore also important to focus on the demand side. In particular, work is needed on energy efficiency (in cities, in buildings, and in the industrial sector) and energy savings.
4. It is important that prices send the right signals, although it should be noted that this is not the only constraint to sustainable energy use and climate protection. From experience in some countries, although prices can be made to reflect environmental costs more clearly, there is a limit to how much subsidies can be reduced. This type of reform has considerable social impacts, particularly in certain countries, where there is not even enough energy available to fulfill basic needs. It is also important, however, that new energy provision schemes are conceptualized on the basis of sustainable and climate-friendly energy systems.
5. There is a need for collaboration and solidarity across the Mediterranean, both among and between northern and southern countries, at any administrative level, with a focus on capacity building and investment.
6. There is a need to increase the attractiveness of Mediterranean countries for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects.
7. IFI finance can have a significant impact on energy and climate change through the choice of projects financed in the energy and transport sectors. In order to advance with RE

investments and to overcome obstacles in the future, in-depth reflection is recommended on the reasons why several RE projects and CDM projects in the region have often stopped short of actual investments, not going beyond feasibility studies. This should begin with a stocktaking exercise that explores these issues. It appears that funding is not a major constraint, but that there is a need for stronger commitment at national level to break into this market, including the commitment of financial resources.

8. There is a need to use tools such as strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and sustainability impact assessment (SIA) for policies and projects in key economic sectors such as energy and transport. This should take place at three levels: national, sub-regional (transboundary) and regional (international). Through tools such as SEA, the link between national energy policies and regional commitments to the MSSD can be made.
9. Because of the importance of the power of example, it is recommended that greater use should be made of green public procurement, whereby governments target their procurement strategies at climate-friendly options.
10. Pursue actively the development of synergies with Euro-Med Partnership, JREC (Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition), EU Energy Initiative, GEEREF (Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund), the S.E Europe Energy Community, etc.

ANNEX III

Recommendations on Energy and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean

The 12th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Istanbul, Turkey, 30-31 May 2007) improved and endorsed the following Recommendations that emerged from the Workshop on 'Energy and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean', held in Monaco, March 2007.

1. MCSD recommends that the national political authorities of the Mediterranean countries:
 - i. Include, in accordance with the MSSD orientations, the rational use of energy (RUE) and the development of renewable energy (RE) in the national strategic priorities and to transpose by 2008, provided it is realistic, the relevant regional objectives to the national level as objectives which are clear, ambitious, differentiated by sector and paced in time,
 - ii. Provided it is realistic, reinforce by 2010 the existing institutional and regulatory frameworks to promote the development of the RUE and RE as well as the strategies for the mobilization of various fiscal, tariff and market tools and instruments available to them, by taking into consideration the local contexts and favoring both small-scale projects and industrial ones,
 - iii. Promote public outreach on the questions of the RUE and RE, especially by developing programmes of environmental education which focus on these issues; further to set up instruments for the effective participation of the various categories of stakeholders, particularly women, in the decision-making process concerning RUE and the promotion of RE,
 - iv. Submit to public and private partners, especially donors, projects on the RUE and the promotion of RE, while ensuring the coordination of their interventions at the various relevant territorial scales,

- v. Ensure the follow-up and assessment of policies and actions undertaken in the fields of RUE and RE, by sharing and documenting the relevant indicators developed by the competent organizations, especially those used in the MSSD,
 - vi. Reinforce regional cooperation in the RUE and the promotion of RE, especially by mutually reinforcing research and assessment capacities and sharing good practices.
2. Moreover, MCSD expects the Blue Plan, in collaboration with its partners to:
- i. Contribute to the collection in the field of energy of information which is clear, reliable, regularly updated and comparable from country to country,
 - ii. Continue its prospective work in the energy sector by basing its scenarios on clearly formulated assumptions, particularly the economic aspects,
 - iii. Carry out a more in-depth analysis of the link between climate change and energy by integrating the cost estimate of climate change and the adaptation and abatement measures,
 - iv. Prepare, every two years, a report on progress registered in the Mediterranean in the fields of RUE and RE, by developing and documenting shared and relevant indicators, established according to tested methodologies and to contribute to setting up a platform for the exchange of good practices.